



Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday April 2006

Quick Reference Guide	
SERVICE CENTER PHONE	(785) 828-4631
CONSERVATION DISTRICT PHONE	(785) 828-3458
FAX	(785) 828-3716
ADDRESS	115 West 17 th Lyndon, KS 66451-9561
E-MAIL	brandon.wilson@ks.usda.gov



Mark Your Calendar

- April 14** - Deadline for CRP Re-enrollment or Extension
- April 14** – CRP Sign Up 33 Ends
- May 29** – Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 31** – Final Day to Certify Wheat, Oats, Barley
- June 1** – DCP Sign Up Ends

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
General Sign Up**

A CRP General Sign Up is underway in Osage County. The program will run until April 14. Producers interested in enrolling whole or partial fields in CRP can only utilize the General Sign Up option. General Sign Ups have been popular to enroll parts of fields that are too rocky or steep or infeasible to farm. In these cases FSA will perform a measurement service and measure the part of the field the producer wishes to enroll.

Conservation Compliance Is Still an Issue

Twenty years ago the Food Security Act of 1985 was signed into law. Many producers now realize that conservation planning and practice applications are important parts of their overall farming operation.

Maintaining compliance with the conservation requirements of the Food Security Act determines whether a producer is eligible for program benefits. Producers need to be aware of the terms of their conservation plans. Farming practices such as terrace and waterway maintenance, contour farming, and residue management may be required. With larger equipment, producers need to be mindful of not farming over terraces and of maintaining terrace height. Moldboard plowing and burning wheat stubble may create a residue maintenance issue.

A random portion of the farms are selected for a conservation compliance review. During the review a determination will be made on whether the producer is fully in conservation compliance.

Producers should also be aware of wetland compliance issues. Violation of wetland and conservation compliance provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill means that a producer can lose his or her eligibility. Loss of eligibility requires producers to pay back benefits and voids future program eligibility. Producers who wish to remove trees, fill in low areas or alter stream channels are advised to first consult with the UDSA Service Center Staff before work begins.

Small Grain Certification

May 31, 2006 is the final day to certify wheat, oats or barley. Please call FSA to schedule an appointment.

DCP Sign Up

Producers are reminded that June 1, 2006, is the deadline for the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP). Contracts must be initiated and all signatures returned by that date. After that date, a \$100.00 late fee is assessed.

2007 Cost Share Assistance

The Osage County Conservation District is accepting applications for cost share assistance for the 2007 fiscal year which begins July 1. Some eligible practices include: waterways, pasture and hay land planting, terraces, fencing, ponds, watering facility, well decommissioning, diversions, spring development, and on-site wastewater system. The first ranking decisions will be made June 1. Funding for the Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program and the Water Resource Cost-Share Program is provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund. Demand for cost share is high and funds are limited. Please call 785-828-3458 or come by the office for more information or to sign up.

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Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Maintenance and Compliance Reminders

Producers are reminded that now is a good time to be thinking about CRP maintenance which is a program requirement. Maintenance issues that program participants should be mindful of include: volunteer trees such as cedar, locust and hedge, and noxious weeds such as thistles and sericea lespedeza.

Typically volunteer trees are controlled in April with a prescribed burn. Noxious weeds should be sprayed during the summer when the plants are actively growing- but before they go to seed. Participants also need to be aware that prescribed burning on CRP acres is to be completed before April 15, which is the start of the bird primary nesting season in Kansas.

Additional information about any of these articles can be obtained by calling 785-828-4631 or visiting us online at: <http://www.usda.gov>



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